United Nations S/2013/26

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 January 2013

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2030 (2011), by which the Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and requested me to report every six months on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and progress made in the implementation of the resolution and the mandate of UNIOGBIS. The report covers major developments since my report of 17 July 2012 (S/2012/554). Information on the implementation of resolution 2048 (2012) is contained in my reports of 12 September (S/2012/704) and 27 November 2012 (S/2012/887).

II. Major developments in Guinea-Bissau

A. Political developments

2. The period under review was marked by negotiations between the political parties represented in Parliament and the Transitional President, raising hopes that a more inclusive political arrangement leading to the restoration of constitutional order could be achieved. However, these hopes were dashed by the serious deterioration of security and the grave violations of the rule of law and human rights that followed the incidents in the area of the Bissalanca air force base in Bissau on 21 October 2012.

3. On 20 November, members of Parliament unanimously approved the extension of the mandate of the National Assembly. They also passed a resolution that, inter alia, (a) adopted, subject to revisions, the political transition pact and the political agreement signed between the junta and 17 political parties on 16 and 18 May, respectively; (b) established a Parliamentary Commission to review the above documents and draft a new transitional regime pact, which would serve as the new framework for the return to constitutional order; and (c) requested the Commission to submit its report and recommendations to the plenary within 30 days of its creation. The Speaker of Parliament established the Commission on 23 November, under the chairmanship of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). It comprises 11 members drawn from all parties

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represented in Parliament, 5 legal advisers and administrative staff. The Commission has invited, for consultations, the country's 37 political parties, civil society and the military. On 9 January 2013, the Commission indicated to international partners that it would submit the first draft of the transitional regime pact by the end of January for further consultations prior to its submission to the plenary of the National Assembly. On 5 December, Parliament elected Judge Rui Nené, nominated by PAIGC, as President of the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and Judge Paulo Sanha as President of the Supreme Court of Justice.

4. Political stakeholders generally welcomed these actions by the National Assembly, except for the Forum of Political Parties, which supports the current transitional arrangements. The Forum challenged the establishment of the Parliamentary Commission to review the framework documents for the transition and the election of Judge Nené as President of CNE. The issue appeared to have been resolved at a meeting, on 17 December, between the Transitional President, members of the Forum, the Transitional Government, the National Assembly and the military. However, in a letter dated 24 December, Judge Nené resigned from this position, arguing that owing to prevailing disagreements, his chairmanship of the Commission could become a source of instability.

5. During the reporting period, the Republican Party for Independence and Development (PRID) elected Afonso Té as its leader, while the Social Renewal Party (PRS) chose Alberto Nambeia as President, following the withdrawal of the candidature of former President Koumba Yalá.

6. On 17 December, PAIGC issued a policy paper on the political transition stressing, inter alia, the importance of concluding the election boundary mapping and conducting a manual or biometric update of the voter register, in order to respect the 12-month time frame developed with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). PAIGC also expressed readiness to extend the transition by up to six months if necessary, as long as a precise and realistic timeline for elections was developed. The party committed to engage in a genuine dialogue for the re-establishment of constitutional order and called for the creation of a special court to investigate all outstanding cases of political violence. Finally, PAIGC stated that a solution to the crisis required: (a) an inclusive dialogue; (b) a broad-based government emanating from Parliament; (c) the harmonization of the positions of international partners; and (d) a dialogue between the national authorities and representatives of the international community.

7. Incidents of serious violations of human rights continued during the reporting period. On 21 December, a former PAIGC parliamentarian, José Carlos Macedo, was beaten up and arrested by uniformed military in Mansaba, Oio region, accused by the military of colluding with deposed Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior to prepare a coup d'état. Since his release, Mr. Macedo has reportedly received death threats from the military. On 22 December, uniformed military and Civil Guard personnel beat up former Prosecutor General Edmundo Mendes in Cacheu. To date, these cases have not been investigated. On 26 December, the ECOWAS representative, contacted by UNIOGBIS on the subject, condemned these violations and highlighted the need for partners to work together to prevent such acts from recurring. On 27 December, the military spokesperson stated during a press conference that, in 2013, the military would reinforce dialogue with citizens to counter human rights violations and improve the image of the armed forces.

8. Meanwhile, on 31 December, in his New Year address to the nation, Transitional President Nhamadjo presented a positive assessment of the eight months of the transition process. He also presented his plan to launch a road map for reconciliation entailing nationwide consultations with the population, including the diaspora, through an open, honest and inclusive dialogue. He further expressed his commitment, and that of the National Assembly and the Transitional Government, to hold legislative and presidential elections as provided for in the transitional pact.

B. Elections

9. On 13 December, the National Assembly approved a draft amendment to the law on voter registration requesting CNE to organize, direct, execute and manage the entire electoral process. The law also allows for both manual and biometric voter registration. On 19 December, the CNE Executive Secretariat told a joint assessment mission of the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union and the United Nations that it would no longer be technically feasible to hold elections in April 2013, owing to delays, the lack of financial resources and lack of clarity on how to update the national voter register.

C. Rule of law and security sector developments

10. The continued lack of civilian control and oversight over the armed forces has resulted in routine military interference in the political process and the management of State institutions. The frequent participation of the military in Cabinet meetings and public statements issued by the military illustrate this state of affairs. At the same time, the Defence Minister of the Transitional Government, General Celestino Carvalho, reiterated the commitment to fast-track the demobilization of military personnel who do not meet the criteria to continue to serve in the armed forces, within the framework of existing legislation and plans. Accordingly, he also intends to set up a follow-up commission for the pension fund for members of the defence and security services.

11. On 27 December, following a meeting of the military leadership, the spokesperson of the armed forces, Colonel Daba Na Walna, in an end-of-the-year public address, outlined the military priorities for 2013, namely: (a) fighting drug trafficking; (b) engaging in a permanent dialogue with citizens; (c) promoting the professional development of the military, especially the implementation of the military legislation regulating the education and training of military personnel; (d) establishing a military school for non-commissioned officers and resuming military technical cooperation with China, Cuba and the Russian Federation. He also said that the military intended to conclude the military census to allow for the recruitment of young personnel as part of the security sector reform process. On 29 November, the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) reached its authorized strength of 677 police, military and logistical support personnel with the arrival of a motorized company of 166 personnel from Nigeria.

D. Socioeconomic developments

12. Contrary to the initial forecast of 4.5 per cent for 2012, economic growth was expected to be below 1 per cent, mainly as a result of the political instability that followed the coup of 12 April and the reduced cashew exports and depressed prices. Only 105,000 tons of cashew nuts had been exported by mid-November, against 166,000 tons in 2011. Additionally, public investment declined markedly, and the construction and service sectors experienced a significant slowdown.

13. The African Development Bank, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank maintained the suspension of development cooperation and budgetary support, while other development partners continued to provide limited assistance. This accounted for an estimated reduction of 55 per cent in aid for public investments in 2012, with a severe impact on the living conditions of an already vulnerable population. However, on 17 December, the World Bank announced that it was resuming its projects in the social sector.

14. The Transitional Government identified a gap of CFAF 25 billion (US$ 50 million) in the State budget. To date, they have received CFAF 2.75 billion (US$ 5.5 million) from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and CFAF 5.3 billion (US$ 10.6 million) from Nigeria in budgetary support. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has provided CFAF 1 billion (US$ 2 million). Despite the budgetary deficit, the State has managed to pay salaries so far. Nevertheless, over the past three months, there have been several public service strikes over salary and benefit arrears and working conditions, particularly in the education, health and justice sectors.

15. Monitoring of the market price of staple food in the capital and selected rural areas by the World Food Programme showed a spike, especially in respect to rice, with an overall increase of 40 per cent between April and October 2012. Since September, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has supported the Ministry of Health in conducting two nationwide surveys to evaluate the prevalence of malaria and to assess the nutritional situation of children under five and women aged between 15 and 49. The surveys will be instrumental in determining key policy and operational priorities to address these two main causes of under-five morbidity and mortality.

16. The Ministry of Health officially declared an outbreak of cholera on 8 October and requested support from the World Health Organization (WHO) for the activation and implementation of a cholera response contingency plan. The outbreak reached a peak during the week of 12 November 2012, when 382 new cases were reported. As at 13 December, a total of 3,141 cases had been registered, with a total of 22 deaths since the outbreak of the epidemic in late August. Overall, the most affected region had been the capital, Bissau, and surrounding areas, with 85 per cent (2,658) of total cases recorded. Meanwhile, UNICEF, WHO and a large number of local non-governmental organizations worked with the Ministry of Health in the cholera prevention and response efforts.

17. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported a review of existing legislation on the protection of people living with HIV/AIDS through a national workshop held on 20 and 21 November in Bissau, in order to address stigma and discrimination. Amendments to the legislation will be submitted to the National Assembly in the course of 2013. A countrywide mapping of sexual

minorities and commercial sex workers was undertaken in August with technical support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The mapping will allow the development and implementation of HIV prevention programmes targeting vulnerable groups, with the aim of reducing the number of new HIV infections.

18. On 28 December, a boat overloaded with more than 100 passengers from Bolama to Bissau sank, resulting in the confirmed death of 35 people. A two-day mourning period was announced and the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights League called on the Office of the Public Prosecutor to launch a criminal investigation against the owner of the boat and responsible authorities.

III. Implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

A. Strengthening the capacities of national institutions and support for inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation

19. From 20 to 23 November, UNIOGBIS supported a reflection and training workshop on peace, conflict resolution and transformation for Christian and Muslim religious leaders. The workshop also examined the issue of gender in conflict resolution, the role of religious groups in facilitating dialogue and the importance of coordination mechanisms. Facilitators from the national non-governmental organization *Voz di Paz* (Voice of Peace) also participated in the workshop. Implementation of the workshop's recommendations, which include a capacity-building programme, will start in the course of January 2013. On 13 December, UNIOGBIS, in partnership with the National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP), held a conference on the political transition with the participation of various national stakeholders.

B. Support to the police, internal security and criminal justice system

20. From 3 to 21 September, UNDP supported a three-week training course for 14 magistrates and prosecutors, focusing on human trafficking, money-laundering, environmental crimes and investigation of economic and financial crimes. UNIOGBIS supported the organization of a symposium on military and common criminal justice, held on 16 and 17 October. The participants, who included civilian officials and military officers working in the justice sector, made recommendations aimed at harmonizing the criminal and military justice systems to relevant State institutions. On 14 November, UNIOGBIS and the Supreme Court formally launched a 550-page compendium of criminal laws, in an effort to improve access to legislation for judicial actors.

21. UNIOGBIS sponsored the organization of the second annual National Forum on Criminal Justice from 27 to 29 November. The event was attended by 85 participants from the judiciary, police, and civil and military prosecution services. The Forum issued a set of recommendations for a strengthened criminal justice system, including: (a) continuous staff training; (b) exchange of information and experiences in combating transnational organized crime; (c) revision of the

criminal procedure code; (d) provision of material and financial resources; (e) strengthening the institutional capacity of the national Financial Intelligence Unit and commercial courts; (f) enhanced collaboration among all State actors, non-governmental organizations and local and traditional authorities to combat the practice of female circumcision; and (g) designing and developing standards mechanisms for tracking and monitoring minors in conflict with the law.

22. UNIOGBIS assisted national counterparts in developing a comprehensive training strategy for the police and security institutions and delivered a series of formal training courses ranging from two days to six weeks in the cities of Bissau and Mansôa and the region of Bafatá, covering all aspects of policing and internal security work. The training directly benefited over 500 trainees. In October and November, UNIOGBIS also provided human rights training to police officers from the Public Order Police in Bissau, and the regions of Bafatá and Gabú. In addition, UNIOGBIS police personnel provided on-the-job training and mentoring to national law enforcement counterparts and continued to provide support to the Gender Sub-Directorate of the Public Order Police. Furthermore, UNIOGBIS provided technical support to the police and security institutions to design and develop a comprehensive uniform regulation.

23. A second round of the vetting and certification process for policing and internal security agencies was conducted in November and December to process 346 officers who had returned from training in Angola, as well as officers from the Marine and Fishery Police (FISCAP) and newly recruited officers to the Ministry of Interior following the coup d'état of 12 April. At the request of the Minister of Defence of the Transitional Government, UNIOGBIS also provided support to quick-start the first phase of the vetting and certification process in the defence institutions. The process, which started on 26 November and was scheduled to end on 15 January 2013, will provide the military with an updated electronic database that will form a critical resource for future security sector reform initiatives and will incorporate data generated by the census of military personnel initiated by the Angolan technical security sector reform mission (MISSANG) in 2011, as well as data from 2008 gathered under a project supported by the European Union. To date, the records of 4,125 female and male military personnel have been updated. A training phase for selected personnel is planned for the future.

24. UNIOGBIS continued to support the development of the vision, mission, organization and objectives of the National Defence Institute. The aim of the Institute is to contribute to building national capabilities, promote civil-military dialogue and focus on the issue of civilian oversight of the security and defence institutions.

25. On the occasion of United Nations Day on 24 October, UNIOGBIS helped the Public Order Police organize an open day in celebration of the first anniversary of the creation of the model police station in Bairro Militar and the formal launching of community-oriented policing. Activities included a panel discussion between Bairro Militar community representatives and the police on changes in community-police relations in the past year. Participants agreed that relations had improved and that this had resulted in a significant reduction of tensions, indicating that the newly introduced concept of policing was bearing fruit and should be replicated nationwide. A survey on the community's perception of security was launched and is expected to provide further analysis on the community-policing concept. On the

same occasion, a police vehicle, funded through a UNIOGBIS trust fund, was handed over to the model police station.

26. From 3 to 7 December, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in partnership with UNIOGBIS, UNDP and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), organized an advanced criminal investigation management training course in Bissau for a total of 34 trainees from the Transnational Crime Unit, the National Central Bureau of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Judiciary Police, the Public Order Police, the National Guard and a judge from the Criminal Court. The course covered the legal framework, case and crime scene management, the investigation of money-laundering and national and international police cooperation channels.

27. During the reporting period, the four Access to Justice Centres established in Bissau, Cacheu and Oio regions with UNDP financial and technical support provided free legal aid, counselling and information services to over 570 beneficiaries, 24 per cent of whom were women. Most of the cases handled related to land and property, labour law, family issues, domestic violence and abuse of power. The Centres carried out awareness-raising activities on legal and human rights issues and organized legal-awareness sessions on children's rights, women's rights, gender equality and illegal detention in collaboration with civil society organizations, targeting more than 8,500 beneficiaries, 47 per cent of whom were women. Traditional leaders were also sensitized about the need to respect human rights standards in decision-making processes through thematic focus groups.

C. Security sector reform coordination

28. UNIOGBIS continued to support national and international efforts on security sector reform and rule of law. In this context, the mission supported the permanent secretariat of the national Security Sector Reform Steering Committee in the drafting of a concept note for the updating of national plans relating to security sector reform and rule of law that included the broad participation, involvement and ownership of the national institutions concerned. UNIOGBIS also supported initiatives to revitalize the permanent secretariat of the Steering Committee, including through training, the maintenance of the secretariat facilities and the provision of office supplies.

D. Humanitarian mine action

29. The Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held on 6 December in Geneva, officially declared that Guinea-Bissau had fulfilled its obligations under article 5 of the Convention. From January 2000 to June 2012, Guinea-Bissau and its partners covered 50 mined areas, representing a total of 6.5 million square metres. Guinea-Bissau benefited from the support of UNDP as the main development partner and of the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Office for Project Services from May 2000 to July 2012. However, battle area clearance tasks remain and an expected residual contamination is yet to be addressed by the Transitional Government.

E. Human rights and gender monitoring, protection, promotion, capacity-building and mainstreaming

30. In July 2012, a UNIOGBIS review noted that the defence and security forces continued to commit grave violations of human rights, including politically motivated assassinations, with total impunity, which constitutes one of the main obstacles to effective security sector reform in the country.

31. In the context of promoting human rights in the armed forces, UNIOGBIS finalized and validated on 17 December, in close cooperation with national counterparts, a human rights training of trainers manual. Following a few months of interruption, UNIOGBIS resumed, in September, biweekly radio programmes on human rights, including social and economic rights. In October and November, UNIOGBIS delivered training to 140 community-based human rights focal points in the regions of Bafatá, Canchungo, Gabú and São Domingos to help them to identify, monitor and report on human rights violations as part of a national human rights monitoring network. This training was complemented by a human rights capacity-building workshop conducted with civil society organizations in Bissau, including youth groups.

32. On 23 July, UNFPA assisted the Institute of Women and Children in organizing training and awareness-raising sessions in the city of Mansôa and the region of Bafatá on sexual and gender-based violence and the protection of women's rights. Similar training sessions were also held in Bissau with over 30 participants from civil society organizations and representatives from the Ministries of Health and Social Solidarity, Justice, Defence and the Interior. UNFPA also supported the establishment of regional networks on gender-based violence case management in Bissau and the regions of Bafatá and Cacheu, within the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed by the Governments of Guinea-Bissau and Brazil and UNFPA in 2011.

33. From 26 July to 16 August, UNIOGBIS conducted training on women in politics attended by women representatives of political parties, journalists, trade unions and women's organizations. The objective was to build greater cohesion among women's groups and gender advocates and to enhance skills for greater effective participation in active and formal politics. A training manual was developed at the end of the training.

34. On 5 and 6 December, UNIOGBIS, UN-Women and UNDP conducted a workshop for 14 trainers from women's civil society organizations to familiarize them with the use of the manual on women's political participation. Subsequently, these trainers provided training to 20 potential women leaders in each of the eight regions of Guinea-Bissau. The objective of this training was to promote greater cohesion among women leaders and enhance women's participation in active and formal politics.

35. From 3 to 4 October, UNIOGBIS supported a local coalition of non-governmental organizations, which held a conference to end the practice of female genital mutilation in cooperation with the Bissau-Guinean Superior Council for Islamic Issues and the Islamic Alliance against female genital mutilation. The conference concluded with a declaration calling for the abolition of the practice. In early November, the United Nations Gender Thematic Group and the United Nations Human Rights Working Group supported the Ministry of Justice in disseminating

provisions and enforcement measures in the law criminalizing female genital mutilation and cutting and the law against human trafficking to 50 stakeholders, including administrative authorities, law enforcement officers, education and health personnel, religious and traditional leaders, and non-governmental organizations, in the region of Bolama and the Bijagos Islands. A sensitization and awareness-raising campaign on gender-based violence and community policing led by UNODC, with UNIOGBIS, UNDP and UN-Women, was conducted on 4 and 5 December in the regions of Bafatá and Gabú.

36. From 5 to 10 November, UNIOGBIS conducted two field assessment missions on social and economic rights in the regions of São Domingos and the Bijagos archipelago. The missions found that the majority of islands in the Bijagos had no hospitals and limited medical treatment facilities. Maternal and child health-care facilities were particularly inadequate. The frequency of water-borne diseases was caused by the poor quality of water. The missions also found that the regions had no power supply or public transportation and that the roads were passable only during the dry season. There were insufficient numbers of schools and teachers to service the population. In Cacheu, there was a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, early and forced marriages and ethnic tensions associated with cattle-rustling. Meanwhile, justice was routinely administered by the Public Order Police in the absence of functional courts.

37. Guinea-Bissau was among the five countries to endorse, on 3 December, the Paris Commitments to end the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups.

F. Support for national efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and human trafficking

38. In July, UNICEF strengthened its cooperation with the Border Police, the Guardian ad litem and partner non-governmental organizations, including *Amigos da Criança*, *Juventude Islâmica* (Islamic Youth) and *SOS Talibés Crianças*, for the identification, rescue, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of trafficking and *talibé* children. During the reporting period, 62 children were reunited with their families in the regions of Bafatá, Gabú and Quinara.

39. Following the temporary suspension of three of the projects implemented by UNODC in Guinea-Bissau as a result of the coup d'état of 12 April, activities to support criminal investigations institutions were carried out on a case-by-case basis, taking into account financial constraints. In this context, from 15 June to 26 September, UNODC provided several capacity-building training sessions on drug trafficking and organized crime at workshops organized by UNIOGBIS, for police and law enforcement officers. UNODC and UNIOGBIS jointly conducted fact-finding missions to the south and west of the country and to the Bijagos Islands to assess the porosity of the country's borders and vulnerabilities that were being exploited by organized crime groups for cocaine trafficking operations.

40. Within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI), UNODC, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIOGBIS, as well as INTERPOL, continued to provide technical, financial and logistical assistance to the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) established to respond to drug trafficking and

organized crime in the country. Under WACI, they delivered capacity-building training for investigation officers to enhance the effectiveness of host-State policing efforts and to improve international police cooperation, notably with other TCUs in the region. Meanwhile, UNIOGBIS continued to provide capacity-building support to TCU, its Management Board and team build-up through the provision of information technology skills, French language training and on-the-job mentoring. On 28 September, UNODC delivered training on money-laundering and terrorism financing to magistrates and law enforcement personnel.

G. Support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

41. The implementation of projects under the Peacebuilding Fund portfolio remained suspended during the reporting period. On 6 August, the Peacebuilding Support Office stated its intention to review its decision to suspend these projects on a quarterly basis, in the light of the evolving political situation and in close coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission. On 27 September, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration invited the deposed Prime Minister and the deposed interim President to brief the configuration on the latest developments in Guinea-Bissau, on the margins of the General Assembly.

H. Regional cooperation, partnerships and resource mobilization

42. In keeping with the decisions taken in September 2012 on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Commission of the African Union chaired a consultative meeting in Addis Ababa on 1 December to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau. Representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, ECOWAS and CPLP attended the meeting, as well as representatives of the deposed authorities. The de facto authorities did not participate. During the meeting, international partners agreed on the terms of reference for a joint assessment mission to be deployed to Guinea-Bissau that would evaluate how international partners could assist Guinea-Bissau to restore constitutional order.

43. The joint mission of the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, European Union and the United Nations, which was led by the Director of Peace and Security of the African Union, was dispatched to Bissau from 16 to 21 December. The objectives of the mission were, inter alia, to: (a) assess the political and security situation; (b) examine the underlying causes of the recurring crises in Guinea-Bissau; (c) explore avenues for building consensus among the participating organizations on the way forward; (d) facilitate the formulation of a set of recommendations on how these organizations could best work together to assist Guinea-Bissau in overcoming its short-, medium- and long-term challenges; and (e) make recommendations on the establishment of an appropriate follow-up mechanism. In conducting its work, the mission met with a wide range of national political and military actors, including the de facto authorities, civil society and international partners. The mission's findings and recommendations will be discussed at a meeting to be convened by the African Union on the margins of its twentieth ordinary session, scheduled to be held from 21 to 28 January 2013.

I. Integration of the United Nations system

44. The political polarization that followed the military coup of 12 April prevented UNIOGBIS from achieving key deliverables initially planned for 2012. The planned revision of the Constitution, the holding of legislative elections, scheduled for November 2012, and a donor round table to mobilize resources for the implementation of the second poverty reduction strategy paper (DENARP II) were all postponed. Furthermore, United Nations interventions on social protection and human development have been revised to focus on humanitarian activities, such as providing assistance in health, education, sanitation and nutrition. Activities in the areas of security sector reform and rule of law and human rights have proceeded.

45. In the light of the political environment, the United Nations country team postponed its submission of the country programmes for the period 2013 to 2017 until June 2014 and extended the current United Nations Framework for Peace and Development in Guinea-Bissau (UNDAF 2008-2012) by an additional two years until the end of 2014.

J. Public information

46. In November, the international media watchdog Reporters sans frontières expressed concern about reports of intimidation against a freelance journalist who went into hiding between late October and early November and subsequently left the country. Reporters sans frontières and the Committee to Protect Journalists also criticized the alleged pressure by the Transitional Government that led to the departure of the Bureau Chief of the Portuguese television channel RTP in Bissau on 9 November. According to media organizations, journalists have had to resort to a large extent to self-censorship for their own security in the face of various acts of intimidation perpetrated by the de facto authorities to curtail freedom of expression and information.

K. Staff safety and security

47. During the reporting period, there were no security incidents affecting United Nations staff, although the incidence of petty crime increased. There were no visible direct threats against the United Nations in general and staff members in particular. All security measures applicable to the security of United Nations staff, assets and operations continued to be strictly enforced.

L. Observations

48. Bissau-Guinean main political stakeholders must continue the discussions they started in New York last fall, on the margins of the General Assembly. It remains the primary responsibility of Bissau-Guinean political actors, civil society bodies, religious leaders, the defence and security forces and citizens in general to create the conditions for a rapid and sustainable return to constitutional order. This entails the development of a road map for the transitional period that includes the holding of elections, and a broad-based agreement on the reforms required to consolidate

political and social stability and relaunch the country's socioeconomic development agenda.

49. The joint assessment mission of the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union, and the United Nations that was dispatched to Bissau from 16 to 21 December was important and timely and I look forward to receiving the mission's recommendations. The United Nations stands ready to cooperate with its partners in the implementation of initiatives conducive to sustainable solutions to the crisis, consistent with international norms and principles.

50. The continued lack of civilian control and oversight over the defence and security forces and the continuing attempts by some politicians to manipulate the military for sectarian benefit remain matters of grave concern. They hamper the effective functioning of State institutions and highlight the urgent need to radically change the way in which politics is conducted in the country, as well as the imperative of the reform of the security and justice sectors.

51. In addition to extrajudicial killings and house searches, there have been reported cases of individuals suspected of political involvement being threatened, abducted, beaten up and abandoned in unknown locations on the outskirts of the capital. Some of the perpetrators have been in uniform, others in civilian clothing. These human rights violations should not be tolerated. I therefore urge the de facto authorities in Guinea-Bissau to take swift action to fight impunity and promote justice.

52. In support of national efforts to address the key drivers of instability, the United Nations system has initiated a review of its work in the country with the aim of realigning its interventions in the areas of State-building and peacebuilding. This exercise will be informed by the final recommendations of the joint assessment mission of the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union, and the United Nations especially in respect of the implementation of security sector reform, and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, as well as addressing impunity, human rights violations and the deteriorating socioeconomic situation. Concerted action to address the challenges facing Guinea-Bissau is essential.

53. On 28 February 2013, the mandate of UNIOGBIS will expire. In the light of the complex challenges facing Guinea-Bissau, and given that my incoming Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau, José Ramos-Horta, will assume his new function in February 2013, I recommend that the mandate be renewed for three months, until 31 May 2013, to allow him to assess the situation in the country. On the basis of his assessment, I will make recommendations with respect to the mission's mandate.

54. I commend the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my outgoing Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, and the entire United Nations country team, as well as members of the broader international community and national and international non-governmental organizations, for their continued contribution to peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau. I would like to reiterate my appreciation to Mr. Mutaboba for his relentless efforts to contribute to peace and stability in Guinea-Bissau from 2008 to 2012, often under difficult political and security conditions.